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January  
31, 2018

## Trump's 2 sentences on energy

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:40:46

President Trump gave only passing mention to energy and natural resources issues during his first State of the Union address last night, despite the administration's efforts over the past year to make reversing Obama-era environmental regulations a centerpiece of its energy dominance agenda. "I think there was like two sentences," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski after the speech. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Post-Christie N.J. wants back into RGGI

Arianna Skibell, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:41:26

Newly elected New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) is re-entering his state into a regional cap-and-trade program. Former Gov. Chris Christie (R) decided in 2011 to withdraw the Garden State from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); the withdrawal took effect in 2012 (Climatewire, May 27, 2011). Environmental groups criticized the move as hampering the critical goal of reducing emissions linked to global warming. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## After Trump tariffs, Chinese solar company says it will build U.S. factory

By Daniel Shane, CNN • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:41:51

A week after the Trump administration unveiled tariffs of up to 30% on imports of solar panels, one of China's biggest manufacturers announced that it plans to open a new plant in the U.S. JinkoSolar said in a statement Monday that its board of directors had given the go-ahead to "finalize planning for the construction of an advanced solar manufacturing facility in the U.S." [ [read more ...](#) ]

## It Matters Where Solar Panels Are Made

By Justin Fox, Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:42:45

Last week, the Donald Trump administration slapped a 30 percent tariff on imports of

certain solar cells that the U.S. International Trade Commission found last fall to be an unfairly priced threat to U.S. manufacturers. Most media coverage of the decision has focused on the effect on the U.S. solar power industry, which is up in arms about a move that will raise its costs. Fair enough. But wouldn't it also be a good thing for the U.S. to have a bigger solar-cell manufacturing industry? [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Statoil, States Helping Offshore Wind Gain Footing in U.S.

By Bobby Magill, BNA Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:42:08

The next five years will be critical for Statoil, Orsted, and other companies to prove the viability of offshore wind in the U.S., with firms gearing up to begin construction on at least eight offshore wind farms along the East Coast through 2023. Offshore wind developers say Trump administration support for offshore wind has been strong during its first year in office, but states are providing the biggest push for new development, especially Massachusetts, Maryland, and New York—which on Jan. 29 released an offshore wind master plan to ignite a \$6 billion offshore wind power industry in the state. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## AWEA: Wind drives up investment

By Kelsey Tamborrino, Politico • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:42:26

The American Wind Energy Association released its “U.S. Wind Industry Fourth Quarter 2017 Market Report” on Tuesday. A key takeaway: In the fourth quarter, 29 new wind farms “totaling 4,125 MW” came online across 16 states, driving \$11 billion in private investment. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Texas wind power continues to dominate

By Ryan Maye Handy, Houston Chronicle • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:43:06

Texas led the nation for greatest additions to the state's wind power capacity in the fourth quarter, and the state still leads the nation for installed wind power capacity with three times more than any other state. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Environmental group sues LePage, says wind farm ban is unconstitutional

By Tux Turkel, Portland Press Herald • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:43:25

A regional environmental advocacy group has gone to court in an attempt to overturn a moratorium that Gov. Paul LePage imposed last week on most new wind energy projects in Maine. In a suit filed Tuesday in Cumberland County Superior Court, the Conservation Law Foundation charges that the governor's action is unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers. The Maine Legislature has passed laws for the permitting of wind energy, the group says in its complaint, and the governor can't change that by executive order. The group is asking a judge to declare the ban unconstitutional and void the governor's order [ [read more ...](#) ]

## Carper to Pruitt: 'I want real answers'

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:43:41



U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt yesterday faced off with Democrats at a contentious hearing on Capitol Hill. Pruitt testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee this morning, his first time before the panel since his confirmation hearing in January 2017. Ranking member Tom Carper (D-Del.) pressed the EPA chief to meet more often with lawmakers in a public forum. [ [read more ...](#) ]

## He got burned on one climate bill, but he's trying again

Josh Kurtz, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-31 06:43:54

When the House narrowly passed cap-and-trade legislation in 2009, then-Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland was chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, responsible for protecting the Democrats' majority. A year later, Democrats suffered devastating defeats at the polls, losing 63 House seats. That climate bill, which stalled in the Senate, was partly to blame. [ [read more ...](#) ]

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